



Letter

In terms of section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention:

Elmarie van der Walt
The MSA Group
PO Box 81356
Parkhurst
2120

Prospecting Rights Application over the Remainder and Portions 3, 7 and 10 of the Farm Bitterputs no 4 109; Portion 5 of the Farm Bosluis 238; Portion 1 of the Farm Vars-Kuip 239; Portions 3 & 4 of the Farm Brak-Kaip 240; the Remainder and Portion 1 of the Farm Bassons-Puts 241; the Remainder and Portions 1, 3 and 4 of the Farm Zuurwater, the Remainder of the Farm Tikasvlei 373 and the Remainder of the Farm Biesiepan 601, Northern Cape Province

We have received notification of your application for prospecting rights in respect of the above properties.

In terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA), no 25 of 1999, heritage resources, including archaeological or palaeontological sites over 100 years old, graves older than 60 years, structures older than 60 years are protected. They may not be disturbed without a permit from the relevant heritage resources authority. This means that before such sites are disturbed by development it is incumbent on the developer (or mine) to ensure that a **Heritage Impact Assessment** is done. This must include the archaeological component (Phase 1) and any other applicable heritage components. Appropriate (Phase 2) mitigation, which involves recording, sampling and dating sites that are to be destroyed, must be done as required.

Decision:

It is stated in the project Information Document that although Phase 1 will be non-invasive, Phase 2 drilling will require the presence of drilling rigs on site. Due to the potential impact this activity might have on heritage resources present within the prospecting site, SAHRA requires a Heritage Impact Assessment in order to establish the presence of possible heritage resources. Please also note that that **clearing of vegetation and building for access roads may also destroy or damage archaeological and/or palaeontological sites.**

Consequently, the quickest process to follow for the archaeological component would be to contract a specialist (see www.asapa.org.za) to provide a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment Report. This must be done before any prospecting drilling, trenching or mining takes place. The Phase 1 Impact Assessment Report will identify the archaeological sites and assess their significance. It should also make recommendations (as indicated in section 38 of the NHRA) about the process to be followed. For example, there may need to be a mitigation phase (Phase 2) where the specialist will collect or excavate material and date the site. At the end of the process the heritage authority may give permission for destruction of the sites.





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CaseID: 203

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As the impact of this prospecting phase on palaeontological resources will be low, a Palaeontological study will not be required at this stage.

Any other heritage resources that may be impacted such as built structures over 60 years old, sites of cultural significance associated with oral histories, burial grounds and graves, graves of victims of conflict, and cultural landscapes or viewscapes must also be assessed.

Please note that these requirements only apply to the prospecting phase of this application and that future mining activities on these properties resulting from successful prospecting will require a specialist Heritage Assessment.

Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.

Yours faithfully

Kathryn Smuts
Heritage Officer: Archaeology

Colette Scheermeyer
SAHRA Head Archaeologist
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:
(DMR, Ref: NC30/5/1/1/2/10539PR)

Terms & Conditions:

1. This approval does not exonerate the applicant from obtaining local authority approval or any other necessary approval for proposed work.
2. If any heritage resources, including graves or human remains, are encountered they must be reported to SAHRA immediately.
3. SAHRA reserves the right to request additional information as required.



The South African Heritage Resources Agency

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